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Cover: "Prairie Spring", by Virginia Rose Maitland

"Prairie Spring" depicts the crocus which carpet the hills of Buffalo Lake, where the artist, a former Edmontonian, lives.

LORAN L. GOULDEN - AN APPRECIATION

by Martin K. McNicholl
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Edmonton, Alberta

The amateur contribution to natural history in general and ornithology in particular has been much lauded by high ranking professionals. Loran Goulden, although briefly a professional biologist, was an Alberta example of the outstanding role amateurs can play in the natural sciences.

I met Loran shortly after my arrival in Edmonton in the fall of 1971, around the time that he, too, had moved to Edmonton, in his case for the second time. At that time two of my office partners, Kathy Martin and Helene (Spice) Walsh were actively engaged in an attempt by the Edmonton Chapter of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada to save the Suffield area from environmental damage by the military. Loran's interest in this and other park issues brought him up to see Kathy and Helene fairly frequently. This concern for park values was expressed in a "Letter to the Editor" of the Edmonton Journal deploring the use of power boats on Astotin Lake in Elk Island National Park.

As I also saw Loran frequently at meetings of Edmonton conservation and naturalist groups, and our interests were similar, we soon became friends, a friendship later cemented by our work in the Edmonton Natural History Club (ENHC). Although Loran was then extremely interested in conservation issues, he was reluctant to become directly involved, as he felt he lacked the necessary experience to contribute in an active way, and also preferred to spend his spare time in pursuing a relatively new but absorbing interest - birdsand ornithology. This lack of direct involvement was short-lived. Late in 1971, I was asked by Cam Finlay to temporarily chair the local arrangements sub-committee of the local committee for the 1972 Canadian Nature Federation conference to be held in Edmonton in the forthcoming August. I invited Loran to join the committee and by the time I had to leave for field work on Vancouver Island in the spring, I managed to persuade him to assume its chairmanship.

Loran did such an outstanding job that then President of the ENHC, Cam Finlay, ever alert for hard workers, quickly appointed Loran a Director of the club. From that time on Loran's contributions to Alberta natural history and nature groups mushroomed explosively, and his name soon ranked among the foremost naturalists in the province. Yet, amazingly, he was virtually a newcomer to natural history, and his tremendous contribution

summarized below should be viewed not only in its own right, but also with the fact in mind that his interest in natural history had only been aroused for about four years!

Loran Leighdale Goulden was born on 24 March 1947 at Shelburne, N.S. This was not a location conductive to the blossoming of a natural history interest, as one occupied in such activities was generally regarded as lazy, crazy, or both. In the fall of 1965 he moved to Ontario, studying at weather training school in Ottawa and Toronto. He then worked for Bell Telephone for one year, followed by a position in the Murals Section of the National Film Board. While in Ottawa he married Gwen, who greatly encouraged his later interest in nature.

In 1968 Loran moved to Edmonton to study photography at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), from which he graduated in the spring of 1970. He then lived briefly in British Columbia where he learned to cook by obtaining work as a cook on a boat! That winter was spent back in Shelburne, N.S., after which he returned to Edmonton.

One of Loran's chief interests was photography, and the quality of his work was such that the Centennial Commission included his photographs in a book, "Canada '67". When he returned to Edmonton, he joined the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta, a position he retained for three years. He also sold photographs to the National Film Board, and during his last year worked on a free-lance basis for CBC Edmonton, taking candid shots used in station breaks. But his prowess as a photographer was overshadowed by a growing, almost all-consuming interest in birds.

While at NAIT a fellow student kindled Loran's slight interest in birds into a flame that soon engulfed him. By the time he returned for a winter in Nova Scotia birds had become very exciting to him, and he contributed observations that winter to the Nova Scotia bird reports. On his return to Edmonton he pursued bird interests with a passion, and audited the Ornithology course of the Department of Zoology, University of Alberta. That course seemed only to whet his appetite for more bird knowledge, and he later took the correspondence course in ornithology offered by Cornell University. But course work formed only a minor part of his education in birds. He read widely and soon built up a large reprint collection. He became an avid collector of bird books - one of the highlights of his last trip to Vancouver was discovering an original copy of W. Rowan's "The Riddle of Migration". He also received and read many journals, as he belonged to the American Ornithologists' Union, the Wilson Ornithological Club, The Cooper Ornithological Society, and British Ornithologists' Union, as well as many Canadian and American bird clubs and nature or conservation organizations. Smokers take note: the subscriptions for his vast array of journals were paid for with the money he saved by quitting smoking. The most significant part of his education, of course, came from the field, where he

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spent many hours seeking and watching birds. Beaverhill Lake was his most frequented tramping ground, and his most helpful teacher was his good friend, Dick Dekker. What courses, reading and field work did not provide or clarify, Loran pursued further by talking about birds, asking questions until he understood whatever concept gave problems. He particularly enjoyed meetings of the ENHC and Edmonton Bird Club, where he could talk to other birdwatchers. One of the major highlights of each month was the beer session at Bob Lister's after each EBC meeting.

Thus by hard work and relentless pursuit of answers, Loran quickly became highly knowledgeable on birds, and even taught a workshop course on Alberta birds for two years for the ENHC. He soon recognized the large gaps in our knowledge of Alberta birds, and thus suggested that the "Edmonton Naturalist" publish monthly observations on birds and other fauna in the northern half of the province. This led him to prepare the Alberta Animal Record Card in cooperation with the Provincial Museum. Loran became the faunal editor of the Edmonton Naturalist, and monthly summarized the reports received on the cards. He also summarized these reports on a seasonal basis for inclusion in the Northern Great Plains section in "American Birds", and more recently for the "Alberta Naturalist".

In the fall of 1971 a Poor-will was found on the Hostvedlt farm near Lindbergh, Alberta, in an apparent state of torpor. The bird lived in the farmhouse practically as a pet all winter. Loran, Gwen, Phil Taylor and I went to see the bird, and Loran became so absorbed in the incident that he read everything he could find on Poor-wills and on hibernation in birds. This resulted in an article in "Blue Jay" which was among the 16 articles receiving more than 10 votes as best liked in 1972, a remarkable feat for a first publishing attempt. This article exemplifies Loran's method of success, for while working on this project he devoted his full attention to it. In a similar manner he set about compiling an extensive bibliography on Harlans Hawk and a similar bibliography on the writings of William Rowan.

Loran's writing and editing activities quickly earned recognition for his name, resulting in an invitation to him to serve on the board of editors for "Western Birds", and his being asked to review a book on Canada's prairie birds for the "Canadian Field-Naturalist". He conducted winter and breeding bird censuses at Elk Island National Park, which were published in "American Birds". In his last summer he conducted breeding bird censuses in British Columbia, and "American Birds" honored his memory by dedicating the entire thirty-eighth (1974) breeding bird census to him. Loran also prepared maps of early winter distributions for four duck species for a project of the National Audubon Society and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see reference list below). His final publication will be a note in the "Auk" on a magpie killing a ground squirrel. Other activities in which Loran participated were the Edmonton Christmas Bird

Counts and the Breeding Bird Survey of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service.

Thus, in a short time period Loran made a significant contribution to Alberta ornithology. But he will be remembered most within the province for his work with naturalists' groups. This started with his work mentioned above for the CNF conference and his appointment as a Director of ENHC, as recently as the fall of 1972. In January of 1973, less than a half-year later, he was elected president of ENHC, a position he held until his death in August, 1974. As President he was, of course, involved in virtually all of the club's activities, but this involvement far exceeded the duties of a President. He personally continued to edit the faunal section of the "Edmonton Naturalist", conducted bird identification classes for two years, and led nature walks co-sponsored by the club and by the Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department. He was a prominent member of the Edmonton Bird Club, and was to be asked to serve on its executive in the fall of 1974. He was also a Director of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, and chairman of FAN's Endangered Species Committee. As such, he drafted FAN's policy on birds of prey later adopted in principle by all member clubs.

With all this interest and time spent studying nature, Loran naturally wished to become professionally involved in this field. Thus, he was delighted to be hired by Renewable Resources Consulting Services, Ltd., in May of 1974. He worked briefly in Dilberry Provincial Park, then spent about one month on the Peace River. His work then took him to British Columbia, where on 1 August 1974 his productive life was suddenly ended in a plane crash on Riddle Mountain.

His death sent shock waves through the Edmonton Bird Club and Edmonton Natural History Club. In tribute to his memory about 200 people attended his memorial service in White Mud Park, while Dick Dekker, Cam Finlay, Gwen Goulden and Bob Lister spoke of his many contributions.

Those of us who were his friends will long cherish memories of his quick wit, uproarous laugh, sometimes explosive temper, open friendliness, impatience with "red tape", stubborn persistence, penchant for thoroughness in those things he considered worthwhile, seemingly endless energy; in short, all those complex, often contradictory characteristics which made this dedicated person so successful at so much in so short a time.

His many friends will long miss him, and natural history and ornithology in Alberta will be poorer for his loss. I wish to thank Gwen Goulden for some of the background material used in this article. It is often said that "behind every successful man there is a woman". Of no couple I know is this more true than Loran and Gwen, Gwen serving as Loran's wife, secretary, bird-watching companion, and sounding board. To both Alberta natural history will long remain in debt.

Publications of Loran L. Goulden

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NATURALISTS' BOOKSHELF (10): A Guide to Alberta Vertebrate Fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs, by Hope Johnson and John E. Storer. Provincial Museum of Alberta Publication No. 4, 1974

by Anthony P. Russell

(Editor's Note: This review was received just after Vol. 5 No. 1 of the AN went to print. A review of the same book was included in that issue. Although irregular to publish two reviews of the same book, I feel because each is written from a widely differing perspective, and neither is redundant, inclusion of both is justified.)

This book is a guide to the fossilized remains of vertebrate animals which may be found in the Cretaceous rocks of Alberta. The foreward states that the publication is largely taken directly from Hope Johnson's notebook, with only a few photographs and a revision of the text being added by John E. Storer. This approach, however, has created a publication which shows wide variance in illustrative quality coupled with little background on the organisms under discussion.

The book is presumably directed towards the "thousands of amateur palaeontologists" who are said to live in Alberta (page 1). It is doubtful, however, whether this statement is completely correct. It is probably that there are very few amateur palaeontologists living in this province, but many fossil collectors. The book is likely to encourage the latter in their efforts and one can hope that it will make them more aware of the scientific value of some of their finds.

The advice given concerning the legality of collecting, the recording of data and the necessity of informing professionals about any unusual finds is very valuable. It is hoped that such advice will be heeded.

The text appears to have some discrepancies scattered throughout it. Measurements should be standardized. Most of the measurements given are metric, but for any large dimensions feet and inches are used.

Several anatomical errors also occur. On page 8 the primitive phalangeal formula for the reptilian pes is given as 2-3-4-5-3 instead of 2-3-4-5-4. On page 9 it is stated that the manus of Leptoceratops is relatively unmodified; yet it has a phalangeal formula of 2-3-4-3-1 (instead of the primitive 2-3-4-5-3) and a very reduced carpal complement. On page 46 a "whole forelimb" of a tyrranosaurid is illustrated, but no humerus is shown. On page 75 the statement, "The hadrosaur had the most complex and efficient dental equipment of any animal known", is made. This statement is rather sweeping and conjectural. There is a tendency to oversimplify some terms - such as the use of the term "doral vertebra" for trunk vertebra on several occasions. The necessity of such simplification is doubtful as other, and less well known, terms such as "diapophysis" are used on the same diagram (page 103, for example).

Figure 111, page 104, illustrates a caudal vertebra of Palaeoscincus. Indicated on this diagram is a sacrat rib - this cannot be so if it is a caudal vertebra (which it appears to be). The text on page 106 assures us that the presence of a chevron bone clearly indicates a vertebra is caudal. The confusion is compounded on page 111 where the "stump of caudal rib" is illustrated. It appears that these "ribs" have been confused with transverse processes.

On page 124 the dental formula of the horse is given as $\frac{3033}{3133}$; but both canines may be present, the upper more frequently than the lower.

Some grammatical errors are also evident. For example, it is difficult to

know what the statement, "Shown is a vertebra from very high on the tail of a hadrosaur," really means. Colloquialisms such as, "A fairly complex vertebra of some reptile," on page 35, are also unnecessary.

The illustrations themselves have considerable charm but some, such as those of salamander vertebrae (page 21) are too small and often too heavily shaded to show sufficient clarity of detail. Many drawings show no scale at all.

This book is obviously intended for those people interested in field work. Its size, however, precludes it from being of much use in the field and the collector must wait until he is at least back at his vehicle before being able to consult it comfortably. It will be a valuable addition to the literature regarding the fossil fauna of Alberta, chiefly because there is nothing else quite like it. It would have been helpful if more literature sources were cited so that those with sufficient interest could follow up more thoroughly on their finds.

THE HILL WITH THE HORNS

by Allen Ronaghan
223 Saskatchewan Dr., Saskatoon, Sask.

An eastern Alberta landmark which has given me hours of pleasure is the "Hill with the Horns", in the area east of Two Hills. Dr. Hector, of the Palliser expedition, mentioned it in his report for Dec. 26, 1857:

> "Shortly after starting this morning we reached the end of the first lake, which is separated from the second by a swampy track three miles in length. A conical hill forms a prominent object on the shore of the third lake. It is called the Hill with the Horns, from a singular stone on the top of it, and seems to rise about 300 feet from the lake. We halted opposite it for dinner, having gone 13 miles."

In 1966, while travelling east from Two Hills on Highway 45, I noticed a hill to the south which seemed to answer Hector's description, and decided to take a side trip to it. I found that, because of the Chain of Lakes, I had to go back to Two Hills, cross the Vermilion River, and go south to a road that led east to the hill. I parked the car and walked along a trail through a pasture to the top of it. To my disappointment, though, there was no "singular stone" to be found, and I had to be content with enjoying the lovely view of Alberta parklands which extended in all directions.

In 1972 I paid a return visit to the area, coming from the south and east, and once again decided that this must be the "Hill with the Horns". This time I spent a while searching in the underbrush to see if someone had rolled the stone off the hill, as has been the case with some of Alberta's ribstones. I found nothing unusual, although there are glacial

boulders outcropping in a number of places. I suspect the hill consists chiefly of glacial boulders and till.

I made inquiries in Two Hills and found out that the man who homesteaded the land, Nick Chrapko, was still alive. A letter to Mr. Chrapko brought the answer that there had been no stone on the hill when he first climbed it in 1912. He wrote, "I liked to climb on top and look at the country, but I did not see any rock. . . different from others." This seemed strange to me. Most of Alberta's ribstones stayed in or near their original position until well into the period of settlement. Some are still in position. The ones near Kinsella have had a little provincial park made around them. What happened, I wondered, to the "singular stone" on the "Hill with the horn"?

My theory is that there never was a "singular stone" on the hill. Careful reading reveals that it was winter when Hector was in the vicinity, and the snow was deep. Men were having to go ahead and break a trail with snowshoes, so I doubt whether Hector climbed the hill. He certainly gives no details as to size, markings, etc., as he almost surely would have done if he had seen one of the ribstones. Conversation over a cup of tea, probably carried on in Cree and translated into English, told him that the hill in question was the "hill with the horn" as far as the Crees were concerned. He may also have been told that there were rock outcroppings on the hill.

In my opinion the explanation for the name is to be found in the shape of the hill itself. The hill is one of the relatively low, rolling hills so common in parts of Alberta, rising some 300 feet from the general level, and occupying in all perhaps a square mile. At the very top is a conical hillock about 75 feet in height. Without this hillock there would be nothing at all unusual about the hill. The way it is one can easily see how the Crees would have seen it as "horns" on a hill.

Today the motorist on highway 45 can stop - just about where Hector must have "halted. . . for dinner" - and see the "Hill with the Horn" due south of him and across from the Chain of Lakes (NE24-54-12-W4). If he has a thermos with him he can say he had a cup of tea right where Hector and his men stopped in 1857. If he is a naturalist and wants to take an interesting field trip, a few minutes drive and a pleasant walk will take him to the "Hill with the Horns".

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA (12)

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl and Virginia Lang

New Newsletter: We are pleased to note the inauguration on April 10, 1975, of the Newsletter of the Bow Valley Naturalists. This is planned as "a continuing if irregular series". No. 1 consists of 2 pages. No price is given, but presumably a membership will suffice. Interested persons should

contact the club at Box 1693, Banff, Alberta. Keep up the good work!

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NATURALISTS' BOOKSHELF (11): YAMNUSKA. Introductory studies of a natural area with proposals for its protection and use. The Yamnuska Natural Area Study Committee. 1974. Price $2.00. Bow Valley Naturalists, Box 1693, Banff, Alberta TOL OCO

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by James W. Case

That this report was compiled largely as the results of a single field season's work is indicative of what a small group of interested naturalists can do when they want to. It also points out the need for more such reports if natural features needing protection are to be identified now, as an aid in long-range planning in Alberta.

The Yamnuska report was prepared to assist in the evaluation of the natural history of the area and they have done an admirable job of it. The incorporation of black and white photographs does much to enhance the appearance of the report.

In addition to a small number of grammatical errors that might be expected in a report put together in such a short time, there are few errors. The term "Natural Area" is used in a variety of ways, and to me, this illustrates the need for a formal definition of a Natural Area.

A good case is presented for appending the Yamnuska area to Bow Valley Provincial Park. It is recommended in the report that the area be zoned as a "natural area" or "interpretive zone" in Bow Valley Provincial Park; that the present grazing practices in the area be eliminated or carefully regulated; that the area be closed to behicular traffic; that interpretive trails be established; that interpretive staff be hired for the summer; that access be provided to interested groups, through the Kananaskis Environmental Sciences Centre; and that the area be closed to camping.

The incorporation of a section on rock climbing points out aspects of nature enjoyment that many naturalists might otherwise not appreciate.

In Chapter IV, the geological features of the Yamnuska area are treated in an interesting and readable manner, and, at the same time, dealing with a large body of knowledge. However, the two photographs on Page 15

separates this section from its list of references and seems out of place.

Under habitat notes there are very helpful descriptions of habitats and the plant species (and some birds) that occur in the area. The various factors affecting the different species are well treated.

The section on moths, skippers and butterflies is well done and includes notes on the flight periods, food plants, habits and brief descriptions for most species. The list includes 29 taxa from the area and it's suggested that 230 remain to be discovered. It might be noted that if the Yamnuska area does become part of Bow Valley Provincial Park, all collecting of animals or plants will be forbidden without a license.

The Appendix at the end of the report presents an impressive annotated list of 306 vascular plant species (93 of which had not been reported from Bow Valley Provincial Park), and an annotated list of 74 bird species. In some cases, however, the common names used in the habitat notes are not the same as those found in the annotated plant list in the appendix. Although this is a minor point, it could confuse some people.

The authors state that the report has no, or only scanty material on insects, nonvascular plants, climatology, birds and mammals, but they have admirably succeeded in their goal to "indicate the diversity of habitat", and I'm sure their report will, indeed, "stimulate investigation in those fields which have been neglected."

The report contains only a few minor errors, and the lack of major mistakes is refreshing. This group, known as the Yamnuska Natural Area Study Committee, made up of Robert N. Smith, Mary Smith, Keith Cole, Joyce Cole, M.D. McIvor, Diane McIvor, Aileen Harmon, C.D. Bird and Gordon Kerr must be congratulated on an informative and professional report that has gone a long way to fill the gap in the knowledge of natural history in Alberta.

MAGPIE NEST SITE SELECTION IN THE EDMONTON AREA

by Geoffrey G. Hogan

The following is a brief summary of a report on a project I conducted during the months of September through early November 1974 on nesting sites of the Black-billed Magpie (Pica pica) in and near Edmonton.

In total, 39 nests were observed in 4 study areas, which included the University of Alberta campus, the North Saskatchewan River bottomland from Mayfair Park to the Kinsmen Field House, Mill Creek Park, and the Ellerslie area just south of the city. In general, the vegetation in these areas was similar with apparently suitable coniferous and deciduous nesting trees available in each.

Magpies show a wide variety of nesting site preferences in different parts of their range. Nests have been recorded as high as 60 feet in trees as well as on the ground, although they are generally placed in trees and not higher than 20 feet (Linsdale 1937). Both deciduous and coniferous trees

My study appeared to indicate that nesting sites chosen may be influenced by a human factor.

The large, bulky magpie nest, with its characteristically domed roof, is a formidable structure offering the birds protection, primarily from hawks and owls, their major natural predators. However, within the city these predators would largely pose less of a threat to the magpies than would humans, especially those with an eye for mischief, curiosity or simple dislike of magpies. Although the domed roof of the nest may act as a deterrent to those birds of prey, it would not be of great protection from humans. Therefore, in order to protect themselves from this threat it would be important to conceal the nest as well as possible to avoid detection - not a particularly simple task for a nest as large as that of a magpie. Possibly, the most effective means by which a magpie is able to conceal its nest is to build it against the trunk of a conifer. I observed that nests built in such sites were very difficult to locate, in comparison to those built in deciduous trees, unless one was specifically looking for one. Frequently, it was difficult to determine whether or not I was looking at a magpie nest or simply a dense growth on the tree itself. Certainly, anyone who has gone for drives in the country in many parts of Alberta has noticed large, bulky magpie nests so obvious, even from a great distance, when they are placed in deciduous trees. This is particularly true during those times of the year when the trees are not in full foliage.

The following table summarizes the results of the nest sites selected in the four study areas.

Study Area	Type of Tree	Tree Hgts.	Nest Hgts.	Ground Cover
U. of A. Campus	10 conif.	30-45 ft.	20-36 ft.	poor (10)
Mill Creek Park	6 conif.	25-53 ft.	16-29 ft.	good (3), excellent (3)
	3 decid.	22-27 ft.	10-11 ft.	good (3)
N. Sask. Riverbottom	5 conif.	20-40 ft.	10-30 ft.	good (5)
	4 decid.	20-40 ft.	15-30 ft.	poor(2), good(1), excellent(1)
Ellerslie area	11 decid.	15-40 ft.	6-24 ft.	poor(4), good(6), excellent(1)

The amount of ground cover beneath the nesting tree appeared to influence the height at which the nest was built. Where the ground cover was poor, ie. non-existent or only short grass, the nests wereoften placed higher in trees, but where ground cover was good or excellent, ie. with varying amounts of undergrowth, the nests were often correspondingly lower.

All of the nests found on the university campus were situated in coniferous trees and in general higher up than the nests at the other study areas. On campus there is a large amount of human traffic beneath the nesting trees.

In the Ellerslie area, where the human traffic factor is considerably less, all magpie nests observed were situated in deciduous trees. In Mill Creek Park and along the N. Saskatchewan Riverbottom, where the birds were using both types of trees, it was observed that where nests were placed close to foot paths, they were generally in coniferous trees, but away from such places, they were often in deciduous trees.

From the data collected, it was tentatively concluded that where there is a great amount of human activity in the vicinity of the nesting trees magpies tend to construct their nests in conifers, due to their better concealing effect even though both coniferous and deciduous trees are readily available. In areas where human activity is not so important the birds may choose deciduous trees for nesting.

It is now (early April) that time of year when the magpies are actively building new nests or possibly repairing old ones, and already I have located three new nests under construction on the university campus, all in coniferous trees.

Literature Cited

Linsdale, Jean M. 1937. The natural history of magpies. Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 25, Berkely, Calif. 234 pp.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - RED DEER

Following are the results of the Alberta Natural History Society's Christmas Bird Count (see Vol. 5 No. 1 for other Alberta counts):

The count was conducted on Dec. 26, 1974. The day was calm and sunny, 38°F. with very light snow cover. City ravine areas, creek and river banks within the city, Gaetz Lake Sanctuary, residential areas and a feeder were covered. 13 participants.

Species Observed: Ruffed Grouse, 1; Rock Dove, 72; Snowy Owl, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 15; Black-billed Magpie, 64; Black-capped Chickadee, 65; Boreal Chickadee, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Bohemian Waxwing, 462; House Sparrow, 80; Evening Grosbeak, 92; Pine Grosbeak, 10; Common Redpoll, 10; White-winged Crossbill, 46; Snow Bunting, 25. Total Individuals: 988. Total Number of Species: 20.

(Editor's Note: My apologies for inadvertently omitting this report in "Alberta Christmas Bird Counts - 1974". An oversight.)

PLANTS IN FLOWER AT THE FAN SPRING MEETING AT WRITING-ON-STONE PROVINCIAL PARK

by C.D. Bird

A most interesting outing was experienced by those who attended the Federation of Alberta Naturalists Spring Meeting at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, May 17-19, 1975. Though the weather turned windy and cool with some snow on the morning of the 19th it was generally good when the field trips were held. Participants were delighted to see a number of plants that are scarce elsewhere in the province, including Unisexual Pussytoes, Yellow Bells, Skunkbush, Poison Ivy and Thorny Buffalo-berry.

Those wishing further details of the vascular plants of the Park should read the excellent paper by Bernard de Vries which appeared in The Blue Jay in 1968 (pp. 41-53).

The following species were found in flower: Anemone patens var. wolfgangiana (Prairie Crocus) - WS, PC; Antennaria dimorpha (Unisexual Pussytoes) - WS, PC; Arabis holboelii (Deflexed Rock Cress) - WS; Betula occidentalis (Water Birch) - WS; Carex filifolia (Thread-leaved Sedge) - WS, PC: Delphinium bicolor (Low Larkspur) - WS; Disporum trachycarpum (Fairy Bells) - PC; Dodecatheon radicatum (Shooting Star) - WS, PC: Draba aurea (Golden Draba) - WS; Erigeron compositus (Daisy Fleabane) - WS; Fritillaria pudica (Yellow Bells) - WS, PC; Geum triflorum (Three-flowered Avens) - PC; Juniperus horizontalis (Creeping Juniper) - PC; Lomatium dissectum var. multifidum (Dissected-leaved Parsley) - PC; L. foeniculaceum (Yellow Prairie Parsley) - PC; L. macrocarpum (White Prairie Parsley) - WS, PC; L. triternatum (Triternate-leaved Parsley) - PC; Musineon divaricatum (Yellow Prairie Parsley) - WS, PC; Phlox hoodii (Moss Phlox) - WS, PC; Populus sargentii (Western Cottonwood) - WS, PC; Potentilla concinna (Early Cinquefoil) - PC; Rhus trilobata (Skunkbush) - WS, PC; Ribes aureum (Golden Currant) - WS, PC; R. inerme (Wild Gooseberry) - WS; Salix lutea (Yellow Willow) - WS; S. pyrifolia (Balsam Willow) - WS; Shepherdia argentea (Thorny Buffalo-berry) - WS, PC; S. canadensis (Canada Buffalo-berry) - PC; Taraxacum officinale (Common Dandelion) - WS; Thermopsis rhombifolia (Golden Bean) - WS, PC; Thlaspi arvense (Stinkweed) - WS, PC; Townsendia sericea (Townsendia) - WS, PC; Viola adunca (Early Blue Violet) - PC; V. nuttallii (Yellow Prairie Violet) - WS, PC; and V. rugulosa (Western Canada Violet) - PC.

A total of 35 plants were found in bloom on May 18, 25 in the Park (WS) and 26 at Police Coulee (PC), SW of the Park. The two places were surprisingly different as only 16 species were common to both, 9 being found only in the Park and 10 only at Police Coulee.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER, 1974-1975, BIRDS

PART I: SOUTHERN ALBERTA, by Rudi Butot

A Red-throated Loon was reported from the Banff area on the very last day of 1974, while two Trumpeter Swans took up winter residence on the Bow River in southeast Calgary, and were duly included on the Christmas Bird Count. The two birds, an adult and an immature, were first reported in November but after Christmas only the adult bird remained and was still there in April. The usual Black Duck put in the occasional winter appearance. At least four Bald Eagles wintered along the Bow also, no doubt courtesy of the myriads of Mallards. A few scattered reports of Golden Eagles were also received, four from the Kananaskis-Longview area in October, three from Calgary on the Christmas count, and a last one on March 11 from Bragg Creek. During the winter months only one report of a Goshawk and one of a Peregrine Falcon were received. For that matter, reports of all birds of prey numbers were low except for the Snowy Owls. A Marsh Hawk was reported in January near High River.

Ring-necked Pheasant and Grey Partridge reports were extremely low this winter. Killdeers were reported in all months except February.

While Great Horned Owl numbers were also rather low, Short-eared Owls began showing up again, starting in February, after a virtual absence all through 1974. One Hawk Owl was reported from the Bearberry area on December 30. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were present throughout the winter in their usual numbers, while the occasional Common Flicker was also reported several times during the winter in Calgary, and once in Rockyford on February 7. Northern 3-Toed Woodpeckers were reported from Calgary, Banff and Lake Louise. Only one report of Pileated Woodpeckers was received, two individuals on December 15 at Water Valley. Several Blue Jay reports came in during the winter months from north of Calgary, as could be expected, but this winter a number of observations were made within the city limits.

Black-capped Chickadees were down in reported numbers, but perhaps with the extremely mild winter they just did not visit their usual haunts. Mountain Chickadees were observed near Seebe, Banff and Lake Louise, in small numbers, but were not reported from Calgary this winter. Boreal Chickadees were reported in small numbers from the National Parks and the Dogpound-Bottrell area, but reports of 3 on Feb. 23 and 5 on March 1 represent the only reports of this species in Calgary. White-breasted Nuthatches were reported from the areas northwest of Calgary, but this winter all Calgary reports were of a single bird only. Red-breasted Nuthatch reports came in from Seebe and Calgary. Some of the Calgary reports with large numbers were Dec. 1 of 8 individuals, and

21 individuals on Dec. 29. A Winter Wren lingered long enough to be included on the Calgary Christmas count. A Dipper was reported from Banff February 23 and a pair were seen during December and January on Elbow River below Glenmore dam in Calgary. A few robins wintered in Calgary. A Varied Thrush was reported from Calgary on February 1; it unfortunately killed itself on a window. Single Townsend's Solitaires were reported on Dec. 29 and 30 in Calgary and Banff, respectively.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported on the Christmas count in both Calgary and Water Valley.On the Calgary count, 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported, as well. Bohemian Waxwings were not noticable in the usually large flocks of other years throughout the city this winter; they were, however, reported accompanied by small flocks of Cedar Waxwings numbering up to 35. The last reported Cedars were seen January 24. Pine Grosbeaks were again scarce in our area, with sightings of 2, 6, and 1 from Calgary on February 23, March 2 and 11 respectively.

Starlings started their spring arrival in the Calgary area in flocks of up to 100 the second week of March. Redpolls were also not as abundant this winter in the southern Alberta area, judging from the submitted reports, and no Hoarys were reported at all. A report of 15 Pine Siskins was received from Calgary on Dec. 29, the one and only sighting of the winter. White-winged Crossbills were more numerous this year with reports coming in from Priddis, Water Valley and Calgary.

Some early reports of early spring arrivals were of a male Red-winged Blackbird on Feb. 28; 9 Tree Sparrows on Feb. 23. Large flocks of Snow Buntings were reported from Lyalta on Jan. 12 and Baintree on Feb. 16, while Horned Larks were beginning to be seen in fair numbers after Feb. 16. At time of writing, last week in April, the shorebirds are just beginning their en masse arrival in southern Alberta.
(More detailed tabulations for the winter months can be found in the winter issues of The Calgary Field Naturalist.)

PART II: CENTRAL ALBERTA - Not Available.

TEACHER'S CORNER: OWLS IN THE FAMILY

by Joy Finlay

Since the Great Horned Owl has been chosen the provincial bird of Alberta, what could be more timely for elementary students than to select Owls in the Family for reading and enjoyment?

From the author's use of western terms such as poplar bluffs and sloughs, we become curious about his background. We learn that Farley Mowat grew up in Saskatoon; and, as an aside, that he played with A.L. Wilk (now co-

author of Birds of Alberta) during his summer visits with an uncle near Camrose.

What other books has Farley Mowat written? The children scan the library files and come up with Never Cry Wolf and A Whale for the Killing. Both books emphasize the need to revise old myths; so we view the film "Death of a Legend".

The students come up with their own illustrations of THEN and NOW: we used to kill the wolf, now we protect it; we used to have bounties on crows and we destroyed their eggs, now . . .

Let us study the owl now specifically. His feathers create air pockets and serve as insulating protection in all kinds of weather. His talons are his grappling hooks. There's the structure of his beak, as a bird of prey. His eyes are most remarkably adapted for the night shift. A student hides in a dark closet so we can see how the iris controls the size of the pupil in the eye, and in darkness gives the retina access to as much light as possible. By day, the iris muscles close down the size of the pupil, much as a diaphragm controls the aperture of a camera lens. In an owl, the opaque nictating membrane also helps to shield his eyes - like built-in sunglasses! An owl has the unique ability to drop the top eyelid when blinking, but he raises the lower eyelid when sleeping just as other birds do. He uses none of man's technological devices - he is equipped with many sophisticated adaptations for his own way of life.

"What is your address?" asked the teacher of a youngster. "What do your parents do for a living?"

"Well, then" she concludes, "let us find the owl's address and study his community".

"Try a poplar bluff" suggests a student.

In the poplar bluff near the school we play games (involvement).

"All kneel down" says the teacher. "Check the spot of ground in front of you. You are frozen there until you see something that is alive". All bend down, eyes scanning the leafy floor, all bottoms up. But soon, having spied something living - an ant, spider, beetle, aphid, butterfly, worm, caterpillar - each detective is bobbing up and down with new discoveries.

The game varies - evidence of life for this next round: a leaf with a hole in it, a mouse runway, an empty bird's nest, a spider's web, a bird dropping. The flutter of wings, a bird call . . .

Now, the habitat game - places to live - an ant hill, a tent of caterpillars. . . It adds up to living the learning, it is self-related discovery of basic principles of ecology.

But let's come back to Owls in the Family for critical thinking. "It makes a good story, but it isn't quite real" someone says. "That's what I think," adds another. "And today," pops up a small boy who never sits still, "the law protects owls and wild birds so that we may not have a wild pet. Farley Mowat had several. He even had gophers and. . ."

So our project has not only embraced reading for appreciation, but reading for evaluation and extension. Students want to read more, and by doing so, they extend their vicarious experience and that leads to enrichment and real experience, whether in a group or each on his own. Reading is a tool to broadening perspectives and experience. It is a necessary complement to the fourth "R", REALITY, that real world around us to which the traditional three "R's" (reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic) must be applied.

NATURALISTS' BOOKSHELF (12): Mushrooms of the Edmonton Area, Edible and Poisonous, by Helene M.E. Shalkwyk. $2.00.

by Joy Finlay

Sixteen species of the more commonly found mushrooms are beautifully illustrated, scientifically named and described. Ms. Shalkwyk has included various ethnic names and interesting remarks as well as favorite recipes and uses.

There is something for everyone in this book. Beekeepers - did you know that a smoking puff ball may be used for clearing the hive? For the ecology student - note the valuable decomposers of dead wood, or the King Boletes which live in true co-operation (symbiosis) with a tree.

Ms. Shalwyk's keen enthusiasm, scientific perception and artistic creativity are combined to make this a very useful and interesting little book.

OVERHEARD (43)

"I will speak to those people who seem continually determined to argue with one another, but whose objectives are in fact identical. These are hunters and those who would abolish hunting. . . While these groups debate and infight over what constitutes proper use of wildlife resources, others continue the blind march of ecological suicide that must one day eliminate any choice we have in the matter of variety and numbers in wildlife. Let our common goal be the perpetuation of a variety of human expression in what is left of our natural world, and let our common enemy be those who would destroy this natural world and thereby eliminate a priceless potential for human experience." (Address to the American Wildlife Federation by Dr. Robert E. LeResche, wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in "North Dakota Outdoors", taken from the Manitoba Naturalists' Society Bulletin, February, 1975.)

FAN NEWS, REPORTS, PROJECTS

MISSING ISSUES OF THE ALBERTA NATURALIST???

We have had problems with our mailing of various issues of Vol. 4 of the Alberta Naturalist. If you were a paid-up member for 1974 and failed to receive one of the four issues, please let us know as soon as possible. Please write directly to Box 1472, Edmonton, Alta., T5J 2N5.

FALL F.A.N. MEETING - SEPT. 20 & 21, BANFF

The fall FAN meeting will be hosted by the Bow Valley Naturalists in Banff. The schedule is:

Saturday, September 20

9:00 AM	Field trip, departing from Banff firehall (corner, Beaver and Caribou Streets) into the high country to see larches.
12:30-1:30	Registration (location will be announced at firehall).
1:00 PM	Director's meeting (location will be announced at registration).
1:30 PM	Field trip, departing from firehall.
6:00 PM	A weiner roast, no host, location to be announced.
7:30 PM	Irwin Ortley, "The Life and Times of the Canadian Beaver".

Sunday, September 21

9:00 AM	Field trip, east of the park, departing from firehall.

Motel facilities and camping facilities are readily available (Tunnel Mountain Campground will still be opened). Program details will be announced at the registration.

BACK ISSUES OF THE ALBERTA NATURALIST

Back issues of Volumes 2, 3 and 4, and Vol. 1 No. 4 are still available at 50¢ per copy. If you wish to add to your library of individual holdings of the Alberta Naturalist, please send your requests to Box 1472, Edmonton, with your remittance to cover cost of your requests, or ask to be invoiced. A few issues are in short supply, and preference for these issues will be given to libraries.

PUBLICATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

To date (16 May 1975) 19 replies have been received to the questionnaire on nature publications in Alberta. Response to the questions are varied, especially as to which of the 3 styles of publication or combination would be preferred. Only one person indicated that he was not generally satisfied with the AN, so I believe Virginia Lang can be congratulated for a job well

done. Many excellent suggestions were received. I shall summarize these in a future issue. Members who have not yet completed the form are urged to do so as soon as possible, as any decisions made on format should be based on the opinions of the majority of membership. - M.K.M.

CLUB NEWS

ALBERTA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer Field Trip Schedule

June 25: Peck's farm along the Blindman (evening walk)
July 2: "Abbott's Pass", 4-5 miles S. of Red Deer (evening walk)
July 6: Baptiste River, north of Rocky Mountain House
July 9: Hills near Content Bridge (evening walk)
July 16: Gaetz Lake Sanctuary (evening walk)
July 20: Buffalo Jump Provincial Park, in Huxley area
July 23: Sunset Hills northwest of Sylvan Lake (evening walk)
July 30: Blindman River at Hwy. 2A campsite (evening walk)
Aug. 3: West on David Thompson Highway to hike along the Howse River (evening walk)
Aug. 13: Evening Walk on an unspoiled road allowance
Aug. 17: Rose Creek near Alder Flats
Aug. 27: Hogsback area on Red Deer River (evening walk)
Sept. 7: Visit to Raven Fish Hatchery.

For details on any of these trips, contact the ANHS, address on inside back cover.

LETHBRIDGE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Summer Field Trip Schedule

June 22: Police Lake
July 12-13: Kananaskis area; camp at Livingston Falls campground
Aug. 3: Ruby Lake, Waterton Park
Aug. 17: Beaver Mines Lake
Sept. 21: Lost Lake, Waterton

For details on any of these trips, contact the LNS, address on inside back cover.

COMBINED FIELD MEET AT ROCHON SANDS PROVINCIAL PARK, by Betty Bulmer

A successful combined field meet took place on Sunday, April 26, with about forty members from the Red Deer, Buffalo Lake and Edmonton Natural History Clubs in attendance. At this very lovely spot, in combination with a perfect spring day, nature's awakening response was evident everywhere in the biotic world.

A Mourning Dove on a power line and a robin's sweet song greeted our arrival. Hiking along the lake shore we noticed water organisms becoming active, especially water boatmen and water striders. Every pond echoed with calling chorus and wood frogs. Garter snakes were seen by some members, while others observed early butterflies, wasps, bees, ants and beetles.

Two Varying Hares (pelage still quite white) were flushed in different locations. Two chipmunks were seen also, one of which was very obliging to photographers. The cries of the gulls, the soaring hawks, an elusive junco, a Tree Swallow, and discovery of a crocus patch in bloom on a road side bank are only a few highlights from a very full, interesting day.

After lunch, a drive was taken to the Comfort bridge to look for river habitat activity. Some hikers went along the top of the river bank, others took to the ice piled up at the river's edge. Red-tailed Hawks and Swainson's Hawks were seen, as well as a few Kestrels, one Goshawk, a Prairie Falcon, and a very exciting sighting of a Turkey Vulture.

Every slough along the highway held several species of ducks, as well as coots and Eared Grebes. Numerous Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, a few bluebirds, and a meadowlark were also seen.

Another combined meet is planned for the August 30-31-Sept. 1 long week-end. A canoe trip on the Red Deer River is included in the plans, and an invitation for Calgary and other southern clubs to join is extended. Further details can be obtained from your local field trip chairman.

NOTES AND NEWS

Kakwa Provincial Park

A statement by "Wild Kakwa" recently published in the Newsletter of the Edmonton Chapter of the National and Provincial Parks Association (vol. 6 no. 7, p. 7) commends the Alberta Government for its recent action in setting up a park in the area, but notes that the park contains less than half the area needing protection. "Wild Kakwa" had proposed the establishment of a core wilderness area with a large buffer zone around it, a proposal said to have been endorsed by the Environment Conservation Authority. Correspondence with the Alberta Government has resulted in no answers to the group's queries. - M.K.M.

New Grasslands Park?

On March 27, 1975, the Honourable Judd Buchanan, Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and Honourable J.R. Kowalchuk, Saskatchewan Minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources, signed a "memorandum of intent" that a new national park be established in the Val Marie and Killdeer areas of Saskatchewan within two years if approved by Saskatchewan residents. Perhaps at last we are on the road to a grasslands national park. (From

"Parks for Tomorrow" 3(1)). - M.K.M.

Wolf Howl at Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan, Aug. 18-20

Canadian Wolf Defenders have announced a wolf "howl", to be held Aug. 18, 19 and possibly 20 (depending on success the first two days) at Waskesiu, Saskatchewan (Prince Albert National Park). For further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope marked "Attention: Wolf Howl" to CWD, Box 3480, Station D, Edmonton. Might be worthwhile to try to fit this event into your holiday schedule. - V.L.

Mink Introduction Threatens QCI Seabird Colonies

On a visit to the Queen Charlotte Islands in June, 1974, biologists spotted at least two mink near Copper Bay on northeast Moresby Island. Local Indians claimed trappers had released them there two years before.

Once established, mink could decimate or wipe out many of the Charlotte's seabird nest colonies, thus a first-class disaster looms ahead. In addition, they would compete severely with the native marten which forage on coasts, because they have no prey species in the forests (red squirrels have been introduced but are not yet generally established).

Fish & Wildlife express extreme concern and assert they will do their best to root out the unwanted mink. (Taken from the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists' Newsletter, Vol. 13 No. 1). - V.L.

Paddle River Not Dammed

An Edmonton Journal report (May 5, 1975, p. 3) notes that the Environment Conservation Authority has rejected a system of dams and reservoirs intended to control flooding of the Paddle River. The authority suggested some smaller projects and more careful planning of land use in the area. - M.K.M.

Park Group to Work Closer With Native People

The Trustees of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada (NPPAC) Propose that the group work closer with native people, especially Innuit, in planning land use in the North. The two groups may clash at times, but the Trustees felt that their interests would frequently overlap. - M.K.M.

"Parks for Tomorrow" Returns

After a considerable period of financial difficulties, the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada (NPPAC) has resumed publication of its newsletter, "Parks for Tomorrow". Vol. 3 No. 1 consisted of 8 pages of park news, chapter news, and other items pertaining to the organization. NPPAC also publishes a magazine, "Park News". Persons interested in preserving existing parks and/or setting aside new areas for parks are urged to join NPPAC at 47 Colborne Street, Ste. 308, Toronto, Ont. Dues are:

student - $4.00; regular - $10.00; husband and wife - $13.00, annually. - M.K.M.

Fuller Lectures on Parks

Dr. W.A. Fuller, former Chairman of the Department of Zoology, University of Alberta, and Chairman of IBP-CT for Canada was selected as the first speaker in a new annual Distinguished Lecture Series, sponsored by Parks Canada and the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada. Dr. Fuller's lecture, "Tragedy in our National Parks", considers threats to parks from internal pressures. (From "Parks for Tomorrow" 3(1)) - M.K.M.

Mauritius Kestrel Chick Dies, Species Near Extinction

The first Mauritius kestrel chick hatched in a special breeding program aimed at saving the species from extinction died in November because of an incubator mishap, according to a report received by the World Wildlife Fund. The chick hatched out of a clutch of three eggs laid by a pair of kestrels caught from the wild for the breeding programme. The other two eggs failed to hatch.

The Mauritius kestrel has been reduced to near extinction by destruction of its forest habitat, predation of eggs and young by introduced monkeys and rats, and persecution by man. Six birds survive, two in the breeding project, and four in the forests of the Black River Gorge, Mauritius. (Taken from IUCN Bulletin, Vol. 6 No. 1) - V.L.

Sinai Leopard Reported in Israel

The Sinai leopard (Panthera pardus jarvisi) which has been thought to be extinct, has been seen and photographed in the Judean Hills near the oasis of Ein Gedi, according to a report originating with Avraham Yoffe, Director of Israel's Nature Reserves Authority. As many as six or seven animals are believed to survive in the area, where for the last four years Israeli game wardens have been putting out freshly killed meat for the unseen leopards. All during this time efforts were made to photograph an animal. The feeding program is said to have kept the cats from preying on livestock and thus coming into conflict with agricultural interests. (Taken from IUCN Bulletin, Vol. 6 No. 2). - V.L.

Joy Finlay Chosen as Chatelaine's "Woman of the Year"

Congratulations are in order for Joy Finlay, FAN member, on being selected as Ms. Chatelaine 1975. Joy teaches at Westbrook Elementary School in Edmonton, and is Outdoor Education Consultant for the Edmonton Public School Board. She regularly contributes material to the Edmonton Naturalist, and two of her articles are featured in this issue of the AN.

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Deadlines for submission of material to the Editor are: February 15, May 15, August 10 and November 15. Please include your address. All maps, charts, etc., should be submitted on white paper, of the appropriate size for publication, preferably done in type and/or india ink.

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